GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1894
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2016
Development of Desert Land
Dubey Shri Satish Chandra;Nagar Shri Rodmal

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The details of total desert area/land in the country and the densityof population in it, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether the Government is implementing or proposed to implement anyscheme for the development of desert land in the country;
(c) ifso, the details thereof; and
(d) theamount spent for the said purpose during each of the last threeyears and thecurrent year, scheme and State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (d) The details of the total desert area along with the population density State-wise as provided by the Registrar General of India & Census Commissioner are at Annexure-I. These desert districts were identified on the recommendations of the "Hanumantha Rao Committee Report - Report of the Technical Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme (April 1994)". The Department of Land Resources implemented a scheme called the Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis between 1995-96 to 2006-07 in 40 districts of seven States. 15746 projects covering an area of 45.79 million hectare were taken up under DDP. The DDP alongwith the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP) were integrated into a single modified programme called the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. One of the criteria which have been adopted for the allocation of area among the States is "identified DDP/DPAP areas in the State as percentage of total DPAP and DDP area in the country". The objectives of IWMP include harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water; prevention of soil run-off; rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table; increasing the productivity of crops; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities; promoting sustainable livelihoods and increasing the household incomes.

From 2015-16, the IWMP is amalgamated as the Watershed Development component of the Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana (PMKSY). State-wise details of amount released by the Department for the implementation of Watershed component of PMKSY during the last three years and the current year i.e.2016-17 is at Annexure-II.

*****